

California State Journal of Medicine.

OWNED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE

Medical Society of the State of California

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VOL. III

SEPTEMBER, 1905.

No. 9

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The JOURNAL is advised that heretofore the examination in obstetrics, before the State Board of Medical Examiners, has been regarded by applicants as a "snap," for the reason that almost never was an applicant rejected for failure to pass in this subject. All previous examinations are reported to have been almost farcically easy, and the markings uncommonly high—high, it is said, regardless of the character of the replies elicited. But with the examination of August, after the organization of the new board, a change seems to have occurred. The Eclectic Medical Society of the state, at its last meeting, elected Dr. J. C. Bainbridge, of Santa Barbara, to serve upon the board for the ensuing year, and he naturally fell heir to the examination in obstetrics. It would appear that Dr. Bainbridge is a believer in the wisdom of the medical law, and also in the wisdom of rigid examinations, for he prepared a set of questions intended to test the knowledge of the applicants on the subject of obstetrics, and he marked the answers so closely that it was found, when the returns were canvassed by the board, that 39 out of 42 applicants had fallen below the minimum 50%! As the names were as yet unknown, under the rules of the board a review was called for, and a more liberal marking permitted the passage of some 4 or 5 more candidates. It is said that some members of the board took Dr. Bainbridge to task, alleging that he had asked too difficult questions, and that after he had quietly listened to such complaints, he informed the complaining members that his questions were taken from some previously asked by the examining

boards of New York and New Jersey! This only substantiates what the JOURNAL has already called attention to—that the standards in California are distinctly lower than those in Eastern states; apparently Dr. Bainbridge, for one, is intent upon remedying this difficulty. We congratulate the board upon the acquisition of so excellent a member, and the Eclectic Society upon so good a representative. The report of the examinations for July and August will be found elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL.

It may be remembered that some months ago the JOURNAL referred to the fact that an unlicensed physician named H. C. Neff was sending out circulars, apparently emanating from the "Specialists Formula Co.," offering to impart certain wonderfully valuable information—for the small sum of \$10.00, cash in advance. As soon as the matter came to our attention, the Postoffice authorities were notified, for the circular bore all the earmarks of fraud. It is a pleasure to note with what promptness the case was taken up by the proper department. The San Francisco papers of the 12th of August printed a telegram dated Washington, to the effect that a "fraud order" had been issued against this "Company." We understand that the Postoffice authorities are only too glad to be informed of these fraudulent enterprises, and to put a stop to them; but unless the facts are presented to the proper officials, the frauds go on unrecognized. Members should bear this in mind, and advise the JOURNAL office promptly when they receive circulars or pamphlets that appear to be "off color." As a general principle it may be accepted that any sort of proposition which invites you to send money in advance in order to secure something very valuable but of a not very definite nature, is presumably fraudulent.

On another page we take pleasure in reprinting an editorial note from a recent number of *American Medicine*, in which is put very clearly and forcefully the issue presented to all medical journals by the formation of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. The JOURNAL commends a careful reading of this, and then a careful perusal of the advertising pages of the various medical journals which may come to your notice. You need not bother to look through the *New York Medical Journal*, for it has already declared itself as being allied with the nostrum interests; physicians with ethical feelings and decent instincts may "go hang"; "the nostrum manufacturer has a secret which is worth money—to him; he pays money to advertise his nostrum; we are in business for money; therefore it is right for him to exploit the medical profession and for us to help him—for he pays us well;" that's about the